

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mark D. ACKERMAN et al.

Serial No.: 10/721,587 Examiner: Greta Lee ROBINSON

Filed: November 24, 2003 Art Unit: 2168

Confirmation No.: 5785 Our Ref.: 6647-051

For: MECHANISM FOR SUPPORTING INDEXED TAGGED CONTENT IN  
A GENERAL PURPOSE DATA STORE

Date: August 11, 2008

**APPLICANTS' COMMENTS ON THE EXAMINER'S  
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner indicates that the prior art of record fails to teach certain features specifically identified in independent claims 3, 7, 13, and 17. While the Examiner focuses attention on these specific features, Applicants submit that there are other features recited in the claims that, individually or in combination with other features, may provide additional reasons for patentability.

Applicants also submit that patent claims are to read as a whole, rather than phrase by phrase or element by element. Therefore, the scope of each allowed claim is not necessarily limited to specific features mentioned in the Statement; rather, the scope of each allowed claim is defined by the language of the claim itself, in its entirety.

Finally, there are various dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly from the allowed independent claims. Each of the allowed dependent claims recites additional features and, therefore, each allowed dependent claim has a scope that is different from the other allowed claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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